



## ST OSYTH PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held at St Osyth Village Hall on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.00 pm



**PRESENT:** Chairman: Cllr. Karen Sinclair, Vice-Chairman: Cllr David Cooper  
Cllr's Clive Atkins, Susan Ball, Alma Blockley, Ray French,  
Jake Moore, Michael Talbot, Michele Thomas, Catherine Venables  
& John White

Cllr. Alan Goggin, Essex County Councillor (arrived at 7.50 pm)

**APOLOGIES:** None

**MINUTES:** Neil Williams (Parish Clerk)

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** One

#### **OM-25-001 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

The Chairman reminded Councillors, that under Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, they had a responsibility to declare any Pecuniary, Other Registerable or Non-Registerable Interests in any matter to be discussed.

#### **OM-25-002 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

	<b>APPLICATION &amp; ADDRESS</b>	<b>PROPOSAL</b>
a.	<a href="#">25/00387/OUT</a> c/o Margella Consult Limited Land rear of 142 Point Clear Road Greenland Grove Point Clear	<p>Outline Planning Application (Access to be considered) - Erection of 5no. dwellings following demolition of pig farm buildings.</p> <p>Given that permission has been granted in respect of planning applications 24/01910/FUL (Erection of two detached self-build bungalows) by the District Council on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025, and 22/00315/FUL (Proposed erection of detached bungalow and associated access, parking and passing bay), granted at Appeal on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the Parish Council has no objections to this application. There are however concerns as to the number of new vehicular entrances to be created along a single track, along which, due to its narrow width, vehicles, especially those larger than a typical car, are unable to pass.</p>

b.	<a href="#">25/00421/FULHH</a> Mr & Mrs Barnard Hazel Brook House Daltes Lane St Osyth	Householder Planning Application - Single storey annexe building dependent to main house.  No objections.
c.	<a href="#">25/00473/LBC</a> Messrs R.A T.R D.R & A.I Sargeant St Osyth Priory The Bury St Osyth	Application for Listed Building Consent - Listed building Consent Application for internal fixtures and fittings (Darcy House).  No objections.
d.	<a href="#">25/00435/TCA</a> c/o Absolute Tree Services (ATS) 70 Colchester Road St Osyth	Trees in a Conservation Area Notification Crown reduce 1 x Ash Tree by 40%. Crown lift 1 x Holly Tree.  <b>Approved – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025.</b>
e.	<a href="#">25/00571/TCA</a> Mr C Unknown Ivy Cottage 72 Colchester Road St Osyth	Trees in a Conservation Area Notification 1 x Eucalyptus - Crown reduce by 40%. 1 x Eucalyptus - Crown reduce by 50%. 1 x Cherry - Fell to ground level.  This application is referred to the TDC Tree & Landscape Officer for consideration.
f.	<a href="#">25/00510/ADV</a> City & Country St Osyth Priory The Bury St Osyth	Application for Advertisement Consent - Single 'Welcome' board behind railings on two posts displaying St Osyth Priory Logo and directions to main access and Marketing Suite.  The Parish Council fully supports the comments submitted by Essex County Council Heritage on 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 and Historic England on 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2025.
g.	<a href="#">25/00529/FULHH</a> Mr A Booth 96 Clacton Road St Osyth	Householder Planning Application – Cartlodge.  No objections.
h.	<a href="#">25/00533/FUL</a> Mr C Gibbs The Partridge Retreat Clay Lane, St Osyth	Planning Application - Erection of a wellbeing unit for the enjoyment of guests.  No objections.
i.	<a href="#">25/00538/FULHH</a> Mr R Kent 126 Clacton Road St Osyth	Householder Planning Application - garage conversion and alteration to form habitable space.  No objections.
j.	<a href="#">25/00449/HHPNOT</a> Mr J Webb 18 D'arcy Road St Osyth	Application to Determine if Prior Approval is Required for a Proposed Larger Home Extension - Proposed single storey rear extension measuring 7.64m in depth, 2.785m high and 2.785m at the eaves, assessed under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) Schedule 2, Part 1, Class A. <b>Noted - Information only.</b>

## **OM-25-003 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE:**

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Tendring District Council (TDC) weekly Notifications of Decisions (Determinations) for the period of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025 to 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025.
- b. Correspondence of 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025 from TDC with regard to the consultation in respect of street naming for St Osyth Priory (Wellwick development).
  - i. By way of a PowerPoint presentation, the Clerk displayed the proposed names, together with the reason associated with each proposed name:
    - a) Priory Field Avenue (reason) - reflects the previous use of land on which cattle once grazed.
    - b) White Hart Grove (reason) - from the White Hart that was seen on Osyth's wedding day.
    - c) Longhorn Lane (reason) - derived from the breeds of livestock that graze the St Osyth Priory.
    - d) Portland Street (reason) - derived from the breeds of livestock that graze the St Osyth Priory.
    - e) Hebridean Way (reason) - derived from the breeds of livestock that graze the St Osyth Priory.
    - f) Shepherds Drive (reason) - acknowledge the Loyal and Ancient Order of Shepherds, who founded a convalescent home in 1948.
    - g) Fallow Way (reason) - reflects the previous use of land on which cattle once grazed.
  - ii. The Clerk informed the Council that having discussed the history of the Wellwick site with the Curator of the Parish Museum, the latter had suggested names associated with both the site and the Priory, which included:
    - a) Breeds of sheep grazed at the Priory.
    - b) Rivers that had formerly flowed through St Osyth.
    - c) Women associated with the Priory.
    - d) Positions held when the Priory was an Abbey.
    - e) Titles held by owners of the Priory.
    - f) Owners of the Priory.
    - g) Periods during which the Priory has existed.

- iii. Cllr. White stated that although the Parish Council reserved the right to authorise the naming of new streets/ roads, the proposed names were in no way similar to other roads within the parish, and that he could see no reason to object.
- iv. Cllr. Talbot stated that the approval for the naming of streets/ roads within the parish was a point of principle, adding that the power had been delegated to the Parish Council by Tendring, when the Parish Council had been awarded Quality Parish Status. He continued that St Osyth Parish Council, not the District Council, was the authority which was responsible for approving street/ road names.
- v. Cllr. Talbot suggested that the Clerk write the District Council and ask for the views of the latter, before the Parish Council made the decision as to the proposed names. All agreed.

#### **OM-25-004 APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**RESOLVED:** That having been previously circulated, the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 be verified for accuracy by the Council and signed by the Chairman, as a true and accurate record. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Thomas and seconded by Cllr. Cooper. All agreed.

#### **OM-25-005 SUMMARY OF ACTION:**

- a. OM-24-185 a. The Clerk reminded the Council that an approach to the owners of St Osyth Priory and the District Council to discuss the possible retention of the temporary car park would be an agenda item at a future meeting of the Council.
- b. OM-24-185 c. The Clerk informed the Council that having liaised with the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) as to how best to proceed with the request for the implementation of double red lines in the vicinity of the crossroads, he was awaiting confirmation as to how such a scheme would cater for deliveries.
- c. OM-24-185 d. The Clerk reminded the Council that Cllr's Talbot and White had, in their capacity as District Councillors, been requested to liaise with the District Council's Planning Enforcement Team in respect of the access to Martello Beach Holiday Park via St Osyth Beach Holiday Park.
- d. OM-24-185 e. The Clerk reminded the Council that he had requested Cllr. Goggin liaise with Essex Highways with regard to the inoperative Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on Point Clear Road, and that Cllr. Goggin would provide an update upon his arrival.
- e. OM-24-185 g. The Clerk reminded the Council that the Deputy Clerk was looking to arrange a Village Litter Pick for either June or July 2025, which would be advertised in St Osyth Life.
- f. OM-24-185 h. The Chairman stated that she would report on the presentation from the District Council's Chief Executive in respect of Devolution and Local Government Reform during her Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC) report.

- g. OM-24-187 b i). Having received correspondence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government in response to the Parish Council's letter regarding allowances for co-opted Councillors, the Clerk stated that he would again write to the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution on behalf of the Parish Council.
- h. OM-24-192 a i). The Clerk informed the Council that Cllr. Atkins would report on correspondence from the County Council's Public Rights of Way (PRoW) officer during his [Cllr. Atkins'] report of footpaths.

**OM-25-006 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None**

**OM-25-007 CORRESPONDENCE:**

The following correspondence was noted:

- a. Correspondence of 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 from St Osyth Parish Council to James McMahon MP, Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution in respect of Councillor's Allowances.

**OM-25-008 FINANCE:**

- a. Approval of payments for March 2025, as per the circulated lists were agreed by the Council.
- b. The following balances were noted and agreed:
  - i. Current a/c: £55,297.75
  - ii. Deposit: £150,000.00
  - iii. Petty Cash: £90.24
- c. Following an incident involving a contractor, and given the amount paid to the contractor, Cllr. Thomas enquired as to the work undertaken and how contractors were instructed by the Council.
  - i. The Clerk stated that they were usually instructed by himself, the Deputy Clerk or Community Warden, however, there were occasions whereby a contractor would carry out work without instruction, such as the cutting of certain areas, which might require a cut. The Clerk subsequently provided a breakdown of the areas where work had been carried out.
  - ii. Cllr. Thomas stated that one of the areas to which she was referring had not, in her opinion, required a cut.
  - iii. The Clerk stated that he would liaise with contractors.

**OM-25-009 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**

- a. **Finance Committee:**
  - i. The draft Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 having been previously distributed, the Chairman invited questions of Cllr. Cooper, in his capacity as Chairman of the Working Party. None were forthcoming.

- ii. The Clerk reported on the discussion which had taken place during the meeting in respect of the use of reserves to offset the cost of replacing the aerial runway (zip wire) and slide at Cowley Park, both of which were for health and safety reasons, which the Committee had requested be referred to the Council for consideration.
- iii. By way of a PowerPoint presentation, the Clerk was able to provide the Council with information in respect of the cost of replacing both pieces of equipment.

a) Aerial Runway:

- i) To manufacture and install a 25m long Aerial Runway.

£8,593.00

- ii) To install 36m<sup>2</sup> of bonded mulch over mounds only.

£3,672.00

Total: £12,265.00 (A)

- iii) To supply and install additional grass matrix tiles if required @ £65.00 per mtr installed.

£390.00 (B)

- iv) Removal and disposal of 8 x foundation points £85.00 each.

£680.00 (C)

Total: (A+B+C)      **£13,335.00**

b) Slide:

- i) To remove the slide, surfacing and concrete edgings.

£855.00

- ii) To manufacture new steps and legs and install refurbished unit.

£3,750.00

- iii) 42m of black wet pour 70mm thick CFH 2.2m, inclusive of full base construction.

£6,552.00

Total: **£11,157.00**

Aerial runway and slide:      **Total: £24,492.00**

- iv. The Clerk reported that were the Council to agree to the use of General Reserves, which would be in the region of £155,000.00 as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, to offset the cost of the equipment, it would still leave £130,000.00 in General Reserves, which was in keeping with the recommendation that a Council retain at least six months running costs (currently £97,537.00) within its reserves. The Clerk continued that the Council would be left with approximately £32,500.00 by way of unallocated reserves.
- i. **RESOLVED:** That St Osyth Parish Council approve the release of £24,492.00 from General Reserves to offset the replacement, on health and safety grounds, of the aerial runway and slide at Cowley Park. The motion was proposed by Cllr. White and seconded by Cllr. Thomas. All agreed.

b. **Cemetery Committee:**

- i. The draft Minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 having been previously distributed, the Chairman invited questions. None were forthcoming.

**OM-25-010 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS:**

a. **Public Realm Working Party:**

- i. The notes of the Working Party meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 having been previously distributed, the Chairman invited questions. None were forthcoming.
- ii. The Clerk informed the Council of a number of accruals which had been made by the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to offset the purchase of items (less installation costs) recommended by the Working Party, which included:

a) Notice board for the Cemetery:	£2,454.48
b) Notice board for Chisbon Heath:	£816.35
c) Festoon lighting for Clacton Road	£889.00
d) Self-watering planter for Clacton Road:	£340.00
e) Man-made timber benches (x 2) for the Bury:	£1,155.00

**Total: £5,654.83**

- iii. **RESOLVED:** That St Osyth Parish Council endorse the recommendation of the Public Realm Working Party for the use of accruals as actioned by the RFO. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Moore and seconded by Cllr. Ball. All agreed.

b. **Highways Working Party:** Nothing to report.

c. **Martin's Farm Country Park:**

- i. The Clerk reported that new concrete bases had been installed for two of the existing benches on the southern site and that three new benches had been installed on the northern site.

**OM-25-011 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:**

a. **Allotments:** The Clerk gave the following report:

- i. That a deposit scheme had been implemented to ensure that the Council was not left with any unforeseen costs, in the event of an allotment holder leaving the site in a condition whereby it would require clearing, which had previously warranted the Council making several claims via the Small Claims Court.
- ii. That the rent for a full plot and half plot would be increasing by £10.00 and £5.00 to £50.00 and £25.00 respectively.

b. **Community Matters & Well-being:** Nothing to report.

c. **Essex Police:** Having been previously circulated, Cllr. Cooper briefed the Council on reported crime during January and February 2025 in St Osyth and Point Clear, by offence and location, and where practicable the status of the investigation.

d. **Footpaths:** Cllr. Atkins gave the following report:

- i. That having finally received a reply from the County Council's Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Lead Officer in respect of the formation of a volunteer working party, it had been ascertained that in addition volunteers having to undergo training, including first aid, the cost of which would have to be borne by the Parish Council, a 9 page risk assessment would be required for every task undertaken.
- ii. Following a discussion as to the requirements of the scheme, the number of volunteers and the time in which it would take to ensure that all volunteers received the requisite training, Cllr. Atkins stated that he would give the matter some thought and liaise with those residents who had expressed an interest in joining the working party.

e. **Tree Warden:**

- i. The Clerk reported that former Councillor, Mrs Sonia Grantham, wished to relinquish the administration for the maintenance of the Arboretum, requesting that the Council take on that responsibility. The Clerk continued that the obvious person to oversee this task, if they were willing to accept, would be Cllr. Atkins.
- ii. The Chairman suggested if Cllr. Atkins agreed, he could be assisted by the Deputy Clerk.
- iii. Cllr. Atkins agreed to oversee the management of the Arboretum, assisted by the Deputy Clerk.



- f. **Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC):** Cllr. Sinclair reported on the meeting held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025.
- i. Councillor Zoe Fairly gave a comprehensive overview of the Offshore Windfarm and Pylons impact. The decision is expected by September 2025. The report that Zoe gave will be sent out with the minutes and I will arrange for this to be forwarded to Councillors.
  - ii. Mr Robert Smith gave a presentation on the Essex Playing Field Association. He spoke of the importance of playing fields for contributing to a healthy lifestyle. They hold a Best Kept Playing Field competition every year. There is a shortage of volunteers at EPFA. They hold training sessions such as groundmanship and making playing fields more inclusive. They are also an avenue for grant funding.
  - iii. Another issue raised was the inspection of playgrounds that used to be undertaken by TDC. There are several different companies being used and not all of them local. There is the possibility of grouping with another parish or town council to get the best possible price.
  - iv. Essex Association of Local Councils is moving from Great Dunmow to Chelmsford. Some staff will be moving but there will be redundancies. It is hoped that they will move to online training courses in future that will help alleviate the long distances that people must travel.
  - v. There is an extraordinary meeting of TDALC to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025. The meeting is being organised by Tendring District Council for local councils to discuss devolution. The meeting invitation is for three attendees. Michael and I shall be attending so if another Councillor would like to attend then please let me know and I will send through the log-in details.
  - vi. The next meeting is on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May.
- g. **District Councillor's Report:**
- i. Cllr. Talbot gave the following report:
    - a) I have reported a number of times on the Governments plans for the future of Local Authorities and their plans for National reorganisation, but I can only apologise for headlining it again, but it is the most important TDC business going on at present.
    - b) Yesterday, John and I attended an all Members Briefing, led by the Chief Executive, Ian Davidson, on the Devolution aspects of 'Local Government Reorganisation' and an update on LGR itself as the main subject, with an absolute wealth of information including some divisions between the current Local Authorities in Essex, about the number of Mayor Driven 'Unitary Authorities' Essex should be divided into, should it be 3, 4 or 5 separate authorities, and this argument is in reality all about politics, and which political group might rule any newly created authority, when it comes into being.

- c) It was not part of last night's meeting, but it is of serious note that whatever happens with the three group pattern we have spoken of, Tendring, Colchester and Braintree, currently have 150 Councillors, but any new authority would probably only have about 70 members, so about 80 potentially aggrieved present Councillors will lose the role they currently enjoy, a very bitter pill for many to swallow.
- d) We also received a report on the Local Plan Consultation and the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community 'Development Plan Document' (DPD) from Gary Guiver, newly appointed Corporate Director for Planning.
- e) The Planning Inspector has backed the development plans for a new settlement between Colchester and Tendring. The 'Development Plan Document' for the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community, most of which had been proposed by TDC, Colchester and Essex County Council, the three Councils behind the plans, in response to the public hearings, sets out a masterplan for the Garden Community, and will be used to assess planning applications when they are put forward by developers.
- f) Last Friday the Cabinet noted the success of the Community Safety Partnership in respect of the proposed 'Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy'. The Safety Partnership's four priorities for the District of Tendring were agreed and these priorities, are set out briefly below:
  - i) Firstly, to tackle anti-social behaviour and its root causes and to deal with High Harm Violence, with a focus on violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and domestic abuse.
  - ii) It also sets out to deal with drug and knife enabled serious violence and county lines operations and to pick up the emerging threats and trends such as shoplifting, vehicle crime, arson & criminal damage). It approved the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2025–2028, in accordance with Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, for recommendation onto Full Council for adoption as part of the Council's overall Policy Framework.
- g) The new Health and Wellbeing Strategy is now out for public consultation. Tendring faces higher-than-average levels of preventable long-term conditions, poorer mental health, obesity, and lower physical activity levels compared to other areas in Essex. This draft strategy identifies key objectives to help improve the health and wellbeing of residents, including addressing the district's health inequalities, enhancing wellbeing, promoting healthier lifestyles, improving the management of long-term conditions and focusing on suicide prevention. The Council knows it may not be able to fund all the suggested actions, but by adopting the plan we will be enabled to seek external funding to help us achieve our aims. As well as integrating physical activity sessions at Wellbeing Hubs in schools and on-going partnership work around the Essex Pedal Power scheme.

- h) A reminder to all that Point Clear Road repairs take place between 9<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June and will result in partial closure and one way working for most of these works. I understand that much work will take place at night to minimise the road disruption.
- ii. Cllr. White gave the following report:
  - a) That, as already mentioned by Cllr. Talbot, Gary Guiver, who had begun his career with TDC as an apprentice had been appointed Corporate Director (Planning and Community), second only to the Chief Executive.
  - b) Cllr. White reiterated that there would, as a result of Local Government Reorganisation, be a significant reduction in the number of Councillors, not only in Tendring, but throughout the County.
- h. **Website:** The Clerk informed the Council that he hoped to have the new website up and running within the next few weeks.

#### **OM-25-012 REPORTS FROM NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES & TRUSTEES:**

- a. **St Osyth Almshouse Charity:** Cllr. Sinclair gave the following report:
  - i. There was currently one vacant property in Clacton Road, which was in the process of being refurbished and renovated, for which the application process would close on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025.
  - ii. That quotes were obtained for the repair of the exterior plaster, which had blown on the front of the properties in Clacton Road.
- b. **St Osyth Playing Field Charity:** The Clerk reported that the pavilion and playing field were again being used to provide free activities by Child & Provide Active for the duration of the Easter holidays.
- c. **Point Clear Community Association:** Cllr. Thomas gave the following report:
  - i. That the official launch of the completed 'Green Energy' project had taken place on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025, and despite being attended by Cllr. Ivan Henderson, Deputy Leader of Tendring District Council, none of the representatives from the respective grant awarding bodies had attended or offered apologies.
- d. **Village Hall Management Committee:** Cllr. Thomas reported that the Management Committee meeting had taken place at the same time as the March Council meeting and that she was not aware of the date of the next meeting.

#### **OM-25-013 APPOINTMENT AS CO-OPTED COUNCILLORS:**

The Chairman reported that the Personnel Committee had interviewed two applicants on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025, and that it was the recommendation of the Committee that both applicants, Mr Harvey Cohen and Mrs Judith Hall, be co-opted onto the Council.

- a. **RESOLVED:** That Mr Harvey Cohen and Mrs Judith be co-opted onto St Osyth Parish Council, to fill the vacancy arising from insufficient candidates at the election and the resignation of former Councillor Julie Ward respectively. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Talbot and seconded by Cllr. French. The vote in favour of Mr Cohen and Mrs Hall was unanimous.
- b. The Chairman informed the Council that both Mr Cohen and Mrs Hall would be invited to attend the May meeting, at which time they would take up their appointments as members of the Council.

#### **OM-25-014 VE DAY 80:**

The Clerk reminded the Council that as part of the national celebrations for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day the beacon at Cowley Park would be lit at 9.30 pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

- a. The Chairman added that members of the Church choir would be asked to attend in order to lead the rendition of 'I Vow to Thee My Country'.

#### **OM-25-015 FURTHER MATTERS:**

The Chairman informed the Council that further matters was intended for exchange of information only and was not an opportunity for general discussion. The Chairman stated that any matters raised should if necessary be an agenda item for discussion at the next/ future meeting(s) of the Parish Council.

- a. Cllr. Venables reported that the provision of parking along Warren Lane had been removed.
  - i. The Clerk stated that oil drums had been placed in the parking area earlier that day.
  - ii. Cllr. Talbot enquired as to why the provision of parking had been removed.
  - iii. The Clerk stated that the landowners had notified the Council in the autumn of 2024 that they intended to withdraw the provision of parking at some point in the future, following a weekend when vehicles had been parked in such a way that one of the landowners had been prevented from being able to exit their own property, but that they [the landowners] had not given any indication as to when this might occur.
- b. Cllr. Cooper informed the Council that the village butcher, Mr Murray, would be retiring in May 2025.

#### **OM-25-016 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES:**

- a. **Essex County Council:** Having arrived at 8.15 pm, Cllr. Goggin gave the following report:
  - i. That he was unable to provide an update in respect of the inoperative Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on Point Clear Road.
  - ii. That he was unable to confirm as to whether two street lights in Chapel Lane were maintained by Essex Highways.

- a) The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council were responsible for two of the four lights along the lane, and that TDC had also confirmed that they were not responsible for the remaining two lights. The Clerk stated that he would forward an email detailing the matter to Cllr. Goggin.
- iii. The Chairman raised the condition of several roads within the village, about which the Parish Council's staff were receiving complaints on an almost daily basis.
  - a) The Chairman continued that queues of traffic were forming as drivers were now avoiding the potholes by driving on the opposite side of the road, in addition to which she [the Chairman] had personally witnessed three cars mount a pavement to manoeuvre around potholes.
  - b) The Chairman stated that having been advised that the repair of The Bury, Mill Street and Point Clear Road would begin on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, the repairs were now scheduled to commence on 9<sup>th</sup> June for 12 nights.
  - c) Cllr. Moore stated that a pushchair had been clipped by a car on Mill Street, after the car had mounted the pavement to avoid a pothole.
  - d) The Chairman stated that in a recent news article it had been reported that despite a government announcement that the East of England was to receive an additional £72m towards pothole and pavement repairs, only 36% of roads were deemed to be in a good structural condition.
  - e) The Chairman enquired of Cllr. Goggin as to who the Parish Council should contact, as it seemed as if Essex Highways did not have the same sense of urgency as the Parish Council and residents.
    - i) Cllr. Goggin stated that the situation was likely to get worse, as the government funding came with restrictions. Furthermore, all Local Highway Panels (LHP) within the county had been suspended with funding yet to be allocated.
    - ii) Cllr. Goggin stated that having himself reported the potholes along the B1027 as requiring urgent attention, Highways had yet to plan any repairs, of which he was aware.
    - iii) The Chairman requested that Cllr. Goggin raise the subject of potholes with Essex Highways, as the lack of action reflected on the Parish Council, which some residents claimed was not doing enough to resolve the problem of potholes, even though it was a County Council responsibility.
- iv. Cllr. Goggin stated that he was disappointed to read in the notes of the Highways Working Party meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025 that the Working Party did not deem the speed cushions fit for purpose.

- a) Cllr. Goggin stated that the finding of the last Volume, Speed and Density (VSD) survey at the crossroads, which had been carried out before the installation of the speed cushions had identified that at a distance of 45 metres, the average speed of vehicles approaching the junction were:
  - i) Clacton Road - 20.9 mph.
  - ii) Colchester Road - 24.7 mph.
  - iii) Spring Road - 18.5 mph.
  - iv) The Bury - 23.4 mph.
- b) Cllr. Goggin stated that he would be willing to support a VSD survey for Colchester Road, but as it was apparent that speed was not the problem, what could be done?
  - i) Cllr. French stated that the speed cushions needed to be repositioned.
  - ii) Cllr. Moore suggested that wider cushions were required.
  - iii) Cllr. Goggin stated that one of the reasons why the cushions could not be laid across the full width of the road was that they would create difficulties for both buses and caravan transporters. He continued that the problem was not one of speed but of drivers failing to stop.
  - iv) The Clerk reminded the Council that in correspondence from the County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Sustainable Transport, the latter had stated that there had been no reportable collisions at the crossroads since May 2024, despite the Parish Council having viewed CCTV of three collisions which occurred in July 2024, two of which were attended by Essex Police.
  - v) The Clerk stated that neither buses or caravan transporters had any difficulty in negotiating the concrete speed ramps along Spring Road.
- c) Cllr. Goggin enquired as to what the Parish Council wanted.
  - i) Cllr. French stated that the speed cushions needed to make it difficult for vehicles to negotiate the crossroads without coming to a halt.
  - ii) The Chairman stated that some vehicles were able to fit between the cushions without any impact on the speed of the respective vehicle.
  - iii) Cllr. Goggin stated that by driving on the opposite side of the road, or between the cushions, drivers were breaking the law.

- d) A discussion ensued during which a number of suggestions were made, including the repositioning of the speed cushions, the installation of additional cushions and the creation of a traffic light-controlled junction.
- i) In respect of the latter, the Clerk reported that it would not be possible, as the cycle of vehicle movements could see traffic stationary for as long as nine minutes, given the need to allow for unhindered movement of traffic along Spring Road, which was the narrowest of the four roads leading to and away from the crossroads.
- ii) Cllr. Talbot stated that the problem was exacerbated by the asymmetric layout of the crossroads.
- iii) Cllr. Thomas stated that Essex Highways needed to conduct an assessment in respect of the effectiveness of the safety improvements to the crossroads.
- iv) The consensus was that the Council should await the findings of the County Council's assessment, before making any decision as to how the matter could be escalated.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.47 pm.

The date and time of the next meeting was set for 7.00 pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025, at St Osyth Village Hall.

<b>Summary of 'Action Required' from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025</b>		
OM-25-003 b v	Road Naming Consultation	Clk to action
OM-25-005 a	Retention of Temporary Car Park	PC to discuss
OM-25-005 b	Implementation of Double Red Lines	Awaiting response
OM-25-005 c	Access to Martello Beach Holiday Park via St Osyth Beach Holiday Park	Clk / Cllr's Talbot & White to action
OM-25-005 g	Letter to Minister of State for Local Government	Clk to action
OM-25-011 d i	Footpaths Working Party	Cllr. Atkins to action
OM-25-016 a i	Repair of Vehicle Activated Sign	Cllr. Goggin to action
OM-25-016 a ii a)	Responsibility for Street Lights	Cllr. Goggin to action